

ShowMeDo.com Updates

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Abstract

Here we present the regular update to the open-source focused screencast tutorial site ShowMeDo.com. The majority of ShowMeDo's screencasts are focused on teaching you new Python skill.

1. What's new at ShowMeDo?

Since the last Python Papers our server has moved from a shared machine to a dedicated server - this means that the site is faster and has far more capacity than before (which means we have more features too - see below).

The move was a little bumpy (sorry if you got hit by downtime!) but everything is smooth now.

The most notable new feature is the introduction of Learning Paths. These Paths organise our content so you have a simple journey between videos and series to help you learn one topic.

An example is the 'Intermediate Python Programming' (<http://showmedo.com/learningpaths/12>) Path, it depends on the 'Beginner Python Programming' path and contains 16 screencasts organised in a sensible order.

We'll discuss more about the Paths further below. Almost all of our recent Python submissions are used in the Learning Paths so visit the page to see what we have.

The new /videotutorials page (<http://showmedo.com/videotutorials/>) re-organises the commonly-requested topics so you'll find it easier to find the content you want now. We also include relevant blog posts on the Tutorials pages now.

The Hall of Fame (<http://showmedo.com/halloffame>) is here to celebrate our best authors. You can rank authors in different ways (e.g. number of videos, number of comments) - Siddhi for example has fewer videos than many authors but outranks all of them for the number of thankful comments generated for his Django tutorials.

If you use Twitter you can also follow lightweight announces on our new account:

- <http://twitter.com/showmedo>

2. Learning Paths

2.1. Why Organise the Screencasts?

As Kyran explains on the Learning Paths page (<http://showmedo.com/learningpaths/>):

"Up to now, using Showmedo has been analogous to bringing your spoon and sampling from a mountain of sugar. We have a lump of content, pretty cool content in our opinion, but unstructured and inert. Learning-paths are one step to making Showmedo more like a river, offering journeys of discovery, suggesting interesting tributaries to explore, encouraging serendipitous connections"

Anyone can author a Path or request editing rights for an existing path. The Paths organise our screencasts and can be used to link out to external tutorials - we want the Paths to be the best guided resource for Python tutorials. Please come and comment and help us add all the required information.

2.2. Popular Learning Paths

The most popular Paths are the ones that teach:

- Beginner Python Programming <http://showmedo.com/learningpaths/11>
- Intermediate Python Programming <http://showmedo.com/learningpaths/12>
- Full Projects in Python <http://showmedo.com/learningpaths/14>
- Python for Strong Pythonistas <http://showmedo.com/learningpaths/13>
- Python IDEs and Tools <http://showmedo.com/learningpaths/21>

The other paths each pick a niche, perhaps some of these will interest you?

- pyGame <http://showmedo.com/learningpaths/15>
- Python 3.0 Introduction <http://showmedo.com/learningpaths/16>
- Scientific Python <http://showmedo.com/learningpaths/17>
- Python GUI Building <http://showmedo.com/learningpaths/18>
- Beginner Web Programming <http://showmedo.com/learningpaths/19>
- Beginner Django Programming <http://showmedo.com/learningpaths/20>

We also have a new Path focused on How to Screencast, view this if you're interested in contributing a screencast to ShowMeDo

- <http://showmedo.com/learningpaths/23>

2.3. Helping with Publicity

We'd love to spread word of the Learning Paths to as many Pythonistas as possible. Would you spare a moment to blog or tweet about the ones you like?

André (one of our authors) has blogged (<http://aroberge.blogspot.com/2009/04/learning-paths-at-showmedo.html>) about all of the Learning Paths, all mentions are valuable to us and we'd really appreciate your effort.

2.4. Writing your own Learning Paths

We have two thorough tutorials on how to add your own Path, you'll need to login first and then it is easy to get started. The mark-up is the Python-standard restructuredText.

- <http://showmedo.com/learningpaths/2>
- <http://showmedo.com/learningpaths/3>

New Paths take about 30 minutes to write, you can Preview them as you go. Once you commit the Path Kyran will review it, expect to get feedback within a day or so. As with the screencasts everything is previewed to make sure that only good, useful tutorial material is published.

3. Latest Club Videos

Since the last issue we've added more videos to the Club, now for the simple yearly membership fee you also get access to the following tutorials. To learn more about the Club see the main sign-up page (<http://showmedo.com/joinus>):

- Python Beginners - File I/O <http://showmedo.com/videotutorials/series?name=bPGq5ZZuz>
- The if Statement <http://showmedo.com/videotutorials/series?name=WrtGJWRn9>
- Functions <http://showmedo.com/videotutorials/series?name=4oReffvY>
- The Python Standard Library <http://showmedo.com/videotutorials/series?name=o9MBQ758M>
- Loops and Iteration <http://showmedo.com/videotutorials/series?name=tIZs1K8h4>

4. Would you like your tutorials to be seen by thousands of Python viewers?

We always welcome new authors - any topics that will educate our usual audience are wanted. You'll find instructions for recording your first screencast here:

- <http://showmedo.com/addVideoInstructions>

Posting it to ShowMeDo is just as simple as adding it to YouTube (although we host videos at a larger size and much higher quality than YouTube!).